



# Affirmation

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR:  
UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CONCERNS  
PO BOX 1021, EVANSTON, IL 60204-1021 \* UMAFFIRMATION@YAHOO.COM \* WWW.UMAFFIRM.ORG

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Volume 30 Issue 3

September 2005

## Reflections on 30 Years of Affirmation

By Ben Roe

How did it get to be nearly 30 years of Affirmation for me?! I don't feel that old, though I'm approaching 60. But it is true: my first contact with Affirmation was in 1978 with a contact person in Kansas who sent me some things from the 1976 General Conference, and invited me to come to the Dayton meeting in the spring of 1978. I treasure a

copy of "Blair's Blurbs," the Affirmation newsletter from 1976, where I first read about Mr. Blair, the imprisoned homosexual man who John Wesley visited against the urging of the Holy Club.

My, how naive I was! As some of you may remember, I've written about how I once bought into the

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## Affirmation 30th Anniversary Celebration and Reconciling Ministries Convocation A Huge Success!

By Rev. Nancy Giese

Over 600 participants gathered at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina this past Labor Day Weekend for the 2005 Reconciling Ministries Convocation. Beginning with the opening worship that invited God's Spirit and light into this place through music, dance, song and prayer, to the closing communion worship service, God was wondrously and actively present. We heard dynamic sermons, and experienced life-affirming Bible studies. Saturday was unofficially but correctly named Bishop's Day. Over 40 Bishops sent greetings and seven United Methodist Bishops

joined us for worship, plenary sessions, and an interactive dialogue. There was a special concert by Jason and deMarco on Sunday night. Special offerings were taken for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Over the weekend, Affirmation sponsored a workshop led by Rev. Shelly Webb called, "Thriving in a Hostile World" that was well received. Affirmation hosted a forum that provided an LGBT-only talking space hosted by Rev. David Meredith. One special event was Affirmation's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party held on Saturday night, where about

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Left on the Side of the Road

On the side of the road  
 Rejected by the church because I was a lesbian  
 And yet dared to claim God's acceptance and love  
 The church's oppressive theology, injustice, fear and  
 discrimination left me  
 on the side of the road injured and bleeding  
 Yet hanging on to the church by a bare thread  
 Unwilling to let the oppressors have the last word.

I was called  
 I couldn't ignore it or deny it  
 As tempted as those choices might be  
 It was a calling for those left on the side of the road  
 For those injured and bleeding by the church's hands  
 Watching as the church walked on by  
 Crossing to the other side of the road  
 But accepted and healed by Samaritans -- others who have  
 been rejected and left out  
 I was called on the side of that road to awake justice  
 From here on the side and from who I was  
 I am called to both stay and transform the church.

Can the church embrace those who they have rejected and abused?  
 I am a part of the Church of today  
 Baptized  
 I am not the first to be on the side of the road  
 out yet in  
 A part of the corporate church although officially rejected.

I claim my place for God says I belong  
 I affirm my calling and faith from the side of the road  
 I can only watch some walk to the other side in their  
 narrowness and prejudice  
 But I am here to stay  
 I am the one on the side of the road.  
 How will you respond?

**By Rev. Nancy Giese**

Director, Servant Leadership School of Central Ohio  
 Broad Street UMC  
 Columbus, Ohio

## Affirmation Newsletter

This Affirmation newsletter is a quarterly publication.

Only Affirmation's elected spokespersons may represent the official positions of this organization. Opinions here, signed or unsigned, are those of the writers, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Affirmation.

Articles for consideration for publication may be submitted to:

[AffirmationNewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:AffirmationNewsletter@yahoo.com).

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Co-Editors:

Jan DeLap & Diane DeLap

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 Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
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 PO Box 1021

Evanston, IL 60204.

[www.umaffirm.org](http://www.umaffirm.org)

E-mail: [umaffirmation@yahoo.com](mailto:umaffirmation@yahoo.com)

## Mission Statement

As an independent voice of  
 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
 Transgender, and Queer  
 people, Affirmation radically  
 reclaims the compassionate  
 and transforming gospel of  
 Jesus Christ by relentlessly  
 pursuing full inclusion in the  
 Church as we journey with the  
 Spirit in creating God's beloved  
 community.

Adopted January 2005





## **Affirmation National Council**

John R. Calhoun  
South Central Jurisdiction  
Oklahoma City, OK  
[REDACTED]

Diane DeLap  
At-Large  
Wilmington, MA  
[REDACTED]

Rev. Peggy R. Gaylord,  
Co-Spokesperson  
At-Large  
Binghamton, NY  
[REDACTED]

Rev. Nancy Giese  
Columbus, OH

Rev. David Meredith  
At-Large  
Columbus, OH  
[REDACTED]

Kathryn Mitchem,  
Co-Convener  
Southeast Jurisdiction

Jim Palmquist  
At-Large  
Macungie, PA  
[REDACTED]

Rev. Kenneth I. Rowe,  
Co-Spokesperson  
Western Jurisdiction  
San Francisco, CA  
[REDACTED]

Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz  
At-Large  
Hamburg, NY  
[REDACTED]

A gay man  
Los Angeles, CA

## **Piece by Piece**

by Vivian Ruth Waltz

My heart was on fire. Not the "strangely warm" kind that changed John Wesley's life. No--it was burning hot and pounding in my chest! I could feel its pulse in every cell of my body. God was urging me to return Jonah's pottery shard of the broken communion chalice...right now!

The Word had come ominously through the preacher: "There is death in this pot!" Like Elisha's stew served up to the prophets in 2 Kings 4:38-41, those of us gathered for the final worship service at "Hearts on Fire" knew Brother James Preston was talking about the bitter ingredient of exclusion and hatred being served to us by the United Methodist Church.

James told the story of how we tasted something deadly at General Conference in Pittsburgh last year when the votes on lgbt inclusion went against us. Choking on sobs of suffering, we gathered for the communion service afterward, seeking an antidote for the poison we'd been forced to swallow by the numerical majority of delegates. We were fighting for survival in a toxic community that had rejected us once again.

In his "Hearts on Fire" sermon, James expressed our yearning for just a crumb of recognition from presiding Bishop D. Max Whitfield as we stood weeping around the table. When none was given, and the Lord's Supper continued as if we weren't suffocating in our grief right in front of him, the bishop offered the cup of "the new covenant." It was in that moment that God commanded James to drop the chalice as a testimony to our brokenness and the broken covenant of "open hearts, open minds, open doors" in the United Methodist Church.

James acknowledged that his first reaction to God's direction was dread, then resistance, then finally submission as he confirmed God's word with those standing near him. In the telling of the story, I heard clearly that when God puts fire in our hearts to do something, we must obey.

So the communion chalice had been shattered on the floor of General Conference. As James continued his prophetic witness, a slide of the glued and wired-together chalice, with pieces missing, was projected for the "Hearts on Fire" congregation. The image was haunting and my eyes were transfixed. In that moment I realized, incredibly, that I had a fragment of the broken cup in a purse in a suitcase in the trunk of the rental car parked outside where we were worshipping! It had been handed to my eight-year-

(Continued on page 4)



*Reconciling Ministries Convocation A Huge Success!*  
(Continued from page 1)

200 people gathered for great food and entertainment. The entertainment led by Cassandra Marsh, a classically trained pianist and vocalist, helped create a cabaret atmosphere as she took song requests from participants, and enlisted the audience in the singing.

While the media covered the weekend and the protest from the KKK and others, it was only a very minor issue for those attending. The security and staff of Lake Junaluska were open and hospitable, and went to great efforts to make sure those of us who attended were safe and were able to enjoy our conference. The positive support of counter protesters, security, and staff overwhelmed any negativity and protest.

Throughout the weekend whether taking a stroll around the lake, involved in a covenant group, listening to one of the speakers, or relaxing over gourmet food in the dining halls, those who attended felt their hearts on fire as God energized, challenged, refreshed, renewed our spirits for the task of justice to create a fully-inclusive church.

*The Rev. Nancy Giese is chair of the Program/Spiritual and Theological Formation Committee of the National Council of Affirmation*

### Smell the Roses??

As a heterosexual couple arrived at Lake Junaluska, the husband noticed two men strolling along the lakeside rose walk. He spoke to his wife, "I bet they're gay." She asked him why he would assume that, not all of the people attending the convocation would be gay. He replied, "Because no straight man would stop to smell the roses."

*Piece by Piece (Continued from page 3)*

old son Jonah by Bishop Donald Ott, who was kneeling on the floor sweeping the shattered pieces into a pile with his arms. It was a sad souvenir of Jonah's first General Conference.

As I stared at the photograph of the pieced-together chalice, suddenly I saw where Jonah's piece fit! My heart ignited and I was compelled to run to the car to get the shard so that it could be returned.

It was truly a bizarre set of circumstances that resulted in my having the piece nearby while James was preaching. Upon my return from "Hearts on Fire," my plan was to make the final trip of my move from Pennsylvania to New York directly from the airport. On the day I left for Convo, I'd been frantically packing the last little pieces of my life in PA. I scooped off everything that was on top of my bedroom dresser into a purse for safe keeping--delicate things like jewelry, and this fragile blue shard of pottery.

The fragment had been on my dresser for over a year. Every so often Jonah and I have taken it and turned it around in our hands, and we remember. Jonah tells me how James "just held his arms out and let it go," because I didn't see it with my eyes clouded by tears. Jonah knows that the church voted against us; he remembers his sore knees from praying on the concrete that "the church will let gay people in." When we're done telling the story, Jonah always asks me to keep the piece of pottery. I tell him it is his, but he says he is afraid he will lose it, or accidentally break it even more.

It crossed my mind as God persisted, that Jonah might be disappointed if I gave his piece of the chalice away. But in his sweet heart, I knew he'd understand that I had no choice. So I stood up front on the side of the sanctuary while James was reaching the climax of his sermon. I was panicking thinking, "I have to

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*Reflections on 30 Years of Affirmation (Continued from page 1)*

stereotype of bisexual people that to be "truly bi" one had to be involved with a woman and a man at the same time. Being bi was a new self-understanding for me back then, having just understood what my feelings meant. I had been involved in sexuality education in the church, and was aware of the way that gay and lesbian people were being discriminated against in the church. Besides the activist part of me, which wanted to be part of the movement to alleviate this kind of oppression of some very gifted people of faith, I also wanted to be around others who understood same-gender attractions and feelings.

However, being just newly "out," I did not know much about the bisexual movements on both coasts, and thought that I'd be welcomed. I was, as long as I didn't identify as bi. ("That's not our agenda," said Joan Clark, whom I greatly respected.) Well, I didn't make a big deal about my own orientation so that I could continue to be a part of the movement. My life partner, Maggie, (we've been married now 36 years) had some exchanges with Mary Gaddis and Judy Cayot in those early meetings that formed the basis for a lasting friendship.

I was appalled at the stories I heard of secret meetings where a gay person would be told to leave the church and never come back. I was heartbroken at the pain of one man in particular, when he was ousted from his associate ministry position. I was amazed at the courage and commitment of Michael Collins, Joan Clark, Paul Abels, and other early leaders. I never knew Gene Leggett, but I'll never forget hearing about what one cleaning woman told him as he left the annual conference session where he was defrocked: "Don't worry, son. You have credentials that nobody can take away." I'll also always remember the Pentecost sermon Paul Abels preached in Denver (in 1980?): "We are witnesses to these things." I wrote my own less courageous version of a sermon with that title. I never thought I could do anything like any of these leaders.

Maggie and I went to a few meetings in 1978-79, but dropped out for a time. We returned to a warm welcome in 1985 at the 10th anniversary celebration at Wheadon UMC in Evanston. I still didn't mention being bi very loud, but we were glad to be reconnected. Sometime later, Peggy Gaylord pushed the Affirmation Council to include the term "bisexual" in the name of the organization. She was persuasive, and we agreed to spend an Affirmation meeting on the subject, which was a Washington, D.C. meeting (near, I later learned, a conference on "ambisexuality"). The Affirmation meeting was lightly attended, but we had a good time, and it seemed that folks appreciated what we did.

We also went to the 20th anniversary in Dallas, and I just went to the 30th at Lake Junaluska.

In between these milestones, I remember meetings working on consensus decision-making; meetings that were like family reunions; meetings that were a chance to give and receive "bread for the journey" in hugs and mutual story-telling and support; wonderful singing in harmony. Consensus is time-consuming and some issues were very difficult to find common ground: I remember what seemed like endless sessions as we tried to find it. Almost all of the time, as I remember it, we found things to agree on and move forward.

I remember meetings where the Reconciling Congregation Program was shaped early on. Maggie was on the Affirmation Council during the adolescence of the Reconciling Congregation Program, when it was spun off to be on its own. I remember hearing about some of the pain of that process,

*(Continued on page 10)*



## **Affirmation Council Approves New Committee Vision Statements**

by Vivian Ruth Waltz

As part of an ongoing process of strategic visioning for the future, the National Council of Affirmation adopted our new mission statement in January 2005: As an independent voice of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people, Affirmation radically reclaims the compassionate and transforming gospel of Jesus Christ by relentlessly pursuing full inclusion in the Church as we journey with the Spirit in creating God's beloved community.

At our meeting in Los Angeles in April 2005, each of the six mission and administrative committees of the Council created vision statements to support our mission and guide our work. Each committee has a job description with listed tasks, but there was previously no comprehensive articulation of the committee's purpose. We share the new vision statements here to inform you of the breadth of the work and ministry that the Council does on behalf of our members.

### **MISSION COMMITTEES:**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Membership Committee is called to share the mission of Affirmation with members and nonmembers in ways that encourage participation through ongoing prayers, faithful presence, personal and financial gifts, and dedicated service.

#### **LYNX**

The Lynx Committee is called to advance the mission of Affirmation by cultivating working relationships with, and speaking prophetically to, groups and communities in and beyond the United Methodist Church.

#### **PROGRAM/SPIRITUAL and THEOLOGICAL FORMATION**

The Program/Spiritual and Theological Formation Committee is called to a ministry of spiritual nurture and renewal to empower Affirmation for works of love, justice, and service.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Communications Committee is called to present the ministry of Affirmation through various forms of media in ways that clarify and strengthen our mission.

#### **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

The Fund Development Committee is called to encourage liberal and cheerful giving through fundraising activities, to offer counsel in financial planning, and to create and implement accountability in spending Affirmation's financial resources.

#### **NOMINATIONS AND LEADER DEVELOPMENT**

The Nominations and Leader Development Committee is called to discern, identify, develop, and match the spiritual gifts and call of individuals with the ministry and mission of Affirmation, and to honor each leader's unique life passage.

*The Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz is chair of the Communications Committee of the National Council of Affirmation.*



## A book review----

By Clarence "Rusty" Norment

### WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER – A Christian Case for Gay Marriage

BY David G. Myers & Letha Dawson Scanzoni HarperSanFrancisco

Relying on recent studies, reports, and books, Myers and Scanzoni reveal the true nature and results of marriage – marriage matters! Among the positive benefits of marriage:

- Marriage is a virtually universal human institution.
- Marriage fosters a more stable and lasting relationship, one of belonging.
- Marriage makes for longer, healthier lives.
- Marriage provides for a happier, and more satisfying relationship.
- Marriage provides for a healthier environment for children.

In compelling arguments, the authors establish a strong case for marriage – for everyone, and conclude that legalizing gay marriage will strengthen the institution for all people.

Several chapters are aimed at providing a better understanding of sexual orientation, and exploring what the Bible says (or doesn't say) about homosexuality. For those who have read many recent books and studies on these subjects, I doubt if there is much new. However, this is mandatory reading for those who have not. A careful study of these topics might lead them to rethink their attitudes toward homosexuality, and what the church's response should be.

I add as a note of interest that I read a good part of this book while on a trip to Waterloo/Kitchener, Ontario. I visited there over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, at the invitation of two of my women friends, to stand as a witness of, and in support of their marriage. The ceremony was in a United Church of Canada. It is difficult to find words adequate to describe the warmth of welcome that we all received from friends in this church. It is also difficult to describe the spiritual experience of being a part of the ceremony, in which two people of the same gender, who love each other very much, were united in marriage. I am convinced that there, God blessed their love.

The question is raised – if lesbian and gay people want to make binding commitments to one another, and to society, then why should they be prevented from doing so while other adults, equivalent in all other ways, are allowed to do so?

*Rusty Norment is the Treasurer of Affirmation*

## A special note of thanks to Cambridge Welcoming Ministries...

By Rev. Nancy Giese

The Affirmation Council wants to express its gratitude for all the work and effort you put into making the 30th Anniversary Cabaret and Dance a huge success. The food was great and the entertainment even better. On behalf of Affirmation and the more than 200 attendees, we want to say thank you so much for all that you do on behalf of inclusiveness in the UMC.

Your witness is a blessing!!

*The Rev. Nancy Giese is chair of the Program/Spiritual and Theological Formation Committee of the National Council of Affirmation*



## Beth Stroud's Appeal

We need your prayers and financial support

Dear friends,

This October, the United Methodist Judicial Council will hear Beth's case in Houston, Texas. As we prepare, we need your prayers and financial support.

We have been deeply moved to learn about all the people who have been praying for us over the past year or two, including many people whom we may never even meet. We know that your prayers are the source of the strength and hope we have felt at times when we were almost exhausted. Your emails, cards, letters, and financial gifts to Beth's legal fund also have been wonderful, and we are trying, slowly over time, to acknowledge them all personally.

While we can't know how the Judicial Council will rule, we believe that The United Methodist Church will one day become a church that is truly welcoming to all people and all types of loving families. Whether we win or lose, Beth's case will be one step toward that day. So our prayer request is that you ask God for healing, learning, and growth for the whole church.

We also need some financial support to complete this part of our journey. Up to this point, our financial needs have been very modest, and unsolicited contributions have been sufficient. All the attorneys working on the case continue to donate their time and expertise - a gift worth tens of thousands of dollars. However, we still need to pay for printing and mailing of briefs; travel to Houston for Beth, Chris, the legal team, and our families; and professional assistance with media relations. We estimate that we will have about another \$10,000 in expenses related to the case - and we have only about \$2,500 left in the legal fund.

The legal fund is administered by Beth's congregation, the First United Methodist Church of Germantown, and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. The resolution establishing the fund stipulates that any money remaining in the fund after all case-related expenses are paid will be used to support youth ministry at the church.

To donate to the legal fund, make out your check to "First United Methodist Church of Germantown" and write "Legal Fund" in the memo section. Send your donation to:

Beth Stroud Legal Fund  
First United Methodist Church of Germantown  
6023 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Please feel free to forward this note to friends who might be willing to help. And thank you for all the ways you continue to support us with so much loving kindness.

Faithfully,

Beth Stroud and Chris Paige

P.S. You can always check for updates on the case, new sermons from Beth and helpful links to resources by visiting [www.bethstroud.info](http://www.bethstroud.info).



## Bishops Send Greetings and Encouragement To Hearts On Fire

With some notes still pending, RMN is thankful to those Bishops who spoke and sent greetings and encouragement to Hearts On Fire, the eighth national convocation of the Reconciling Ministries Network held at Lake Junaluska over Labor Day weekend.

These notes from bishops came alongside many personal notes of encouragement from Lake Junaluska residents, nearby Waynesville and Asheville residents, and others from North Carolina and around the country. One quarter of the Hearts On Fire participants were from the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

James M. Ault	Jane Allen Middleton
Monk Bryan	Susan Morrison
Minerva Carcaño	Albert Frederick Mutti
Ray Chamberlain	Don Ott
Judith Craig	Ed Paup
Sudarshana Devadhar	Sharon Zimmerman Rader
William W. Dew, Jr.	Roy Sano
Jesse DeWitt	John Schol
Sally Dyck	Beverly Shamana
Violet L. Fisher	Ann B. Sherer
William Boyd Grove	C. Joseph Sprague
Susan Hassinger	Forrest Stith
Robert T. Hoshibata	Mary Ann Swenson
S. Clifton Ives	Melvin Talbert
Charles Wesley Jordan	Jack M. Tuell
Hee-Soo Jung	Hope Morgan Ward
Charlene P. Kammerer	Melvin E. Wheatley, Jr.
Leontyne T. C. Kelly	C. Dale White
Deborah L. Kiesey	Richard Wilke
Calvin D. McConnell	Joseph H. Yeakel
Marshall L. Meadors, Jr.	

Some bishops were not available to send their greetings. And other bishops sent notes directly to Lake Junaluska to support the staff in their efforts to live out "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." Two of these greetings were received after Hearts on Fire!

*From: Flashnet! The Reconciling Ministries Network Digest Thursday, September 22, 2005*



*Reflections on 30 Years of Affirmation (Continued from page 5)*

but Maggie also reminds me it was a real learning process.

I didn't attend General Conferences until the Denver one in 1996, but remember laughing until my sides hurt at the stories Mary Gaddis tells of the much earlier General Conferences, and the unique hotels that the group stayed at in those years.

Affirmation, as a voice of LGBT people, has had a hard time getting the floor to be heard, but gradually and persistently we have been telling the truth about our lives to anyone who would listen. The Reconciling Ministries Network has provided a strong supportive venue for some of those witnesses. As more and more churches are affirming the legitimate place of LGBT persons at all levels of leadership, and as more young gays grow up without ever being in the closet, the voice of truth about our lives and our faith experiences will be heard. Thank you, Affirmation, for being a haven, a constant witness, and a vision-setting organization!

*Ben Roe is a long-time supporter of Affirmation. He has done sexuality education, including panels and programs on bisexuality for PFLAG. He is lay leader and chair of the mission/vision team at Warren United Methodist Church in Denver, a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. He maintains several web sites for churches and church-related organizations. He works in communications for the church.*

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*Piece by Piece (Continued from page 4)*

give it to him before he finishes." Then my feet just moved. I don't know how I got James' attention, or how I got that piece into his hand, or how I didn't totally ruin the end of his sermon (he's some preacher--he barely missed a beat!), but it happened and he held it up for all to see.

By the end of Holy Communion, the shard was in Heather Murray Elkins' hand. She lifted it high as she blessed us with eloquent and passionate words about how our shattered spirits and our broken, yet beloved, United Methodist Church are being healed piece by piece by God's everlasting love for us.

After worship ended, I told Heather that it was Bishop Ott who gave the fragment of the chalice to Jonah. She quickly responded, "Then Jonah should have it back." When I protested, she looked deep into my eyes, pressed the shard into my hand, and told me that I was to tell Jonah that he needs to keep the piece until the Discipline changes. Then he must bring it to General Conference and lay it on the altar in thanksgiving for what God has done in calling the church to truly embrace all of God's children with open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

When I reacted that that was a tall order for a mom, Heather said something about my having named my son Jonah. By then I was crying, and my heart was on fire again...

God has assured me that I will live to see the day Jonah returns that precious blue shard of the broken chalice to the communion table at a General Conference in years to come. May we all have the confidence of the apostle Paul who wrote, "There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." (1 Philippians 1:6, Peterson). Sisters and brothers in the ministry of reconciliation, dare to live the good news that sets our hearts on fire!

*The Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz is chair of the Communications Committee of the National Council of Affirmation.*



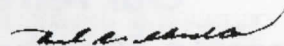
Post Office Box 953  
Evanston, Illinois 60204  
June 10, 2005

The National Council  
Affirmation  
Post Office Box 1021  
Evanston, Illinois 60204

Dear Colleagues:

Every member of Affirmation, known and unknown across the planet, has my enthusiastic congratulations as together we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Affirmation. May your lengthy celebration during Labor Day weekend at Lake Junaluska strengthen your hope and inspire your continuing commitment. Although the past few decades have been difficult, progress has been made in extending and actualizing human rights. The struggle is hard, but the purpose for which Affirmation stands, is an objective worthy of hard work and persistent sacrifice. Blessings always!

Sincerely yours,



Daniel Ross Chandler  
Founding Member, Affirmation

## PRAYER PLEASE

In the midst of many concerns on our hearts these days...from the violence of worldwide conflict to the continued oppression experienced by the LGBTQ community...we ask prayer for Affirmation's National Council members, over half of whom are dealing with very significant life challenges/changes in their lives right now. As part of your commitment, please pray that our leadership be sustained during such times of personal crises. In ways comfortable to you please consider using the Council membership list elsewhere in this newsletter to pray individually for their life journeys. Feel free to add the Affirmation Council names to prayer lists, etc.

Thank you...from the Nominations/Leader Development Committee



**JOIN AFFIRMATION FOR A WEEKEND  
OF RETREAT and RENEWAL**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2006**

COME AND ENJOY A TIME AWAY FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF GOD AND  
COMMUNITY AROUND THE THEME OF  
EMBODIED QUEER THEOLOGY

***Our retreat guides will be  
Rev. Joretta Marshall and Rev. David Meredith***

*Site: La Salle Retreat Center  
In the foothills of the Ozarks  
A thirty-minute drive  
From the St. Louis, MO, airport*

***Watch website [www.umaffirm.org](http://www.umaffirm.org) and upcoming newsletters  
for registration and other details***



Affirmation: United Methodists for  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Concerns  
PO Box 1021; Evanston, IL 60204

[www.umaffirm.org](http://www.umaffirm.org)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UMCalledOut>